

Export Potential of Maharashtra

25. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have examined Maharashtra's export potential;
- (b) the details of exportable items of Maharashtra; and
- (c) the details of quantity of these items exported from Maharashtra and foreign exchange earned during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Government of Maharashtra and Federation of Indian Export Organisations have conducted studies of the export potential of Maharashtra. As per the study, the main items having export potential from Maharashtra are software, textiles, engineering items, leather, floriculture and horticulture, gems and jewellery.

(c) The Central Government maintains export data for the country as a whole and not State-wise.

Revision of Tariff on Chinese goods

26. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Chinese goods are flooding Indian markets; and
- (b) if so, the action taken to raise tariff to stop Chinese dumping?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) A perusal of import data reveals that there has not been any surge of import from China on an overall basis. The imports from China constitute on an average less than 3% of the total Indian imports.

India and China have accorded Most Favoured Nation Status to

each other as part of bilateral agreement. Thus, the import duties cannot be raised only on imports from China. However, the Government has received information regarding dumping of some cheap consumer goods like dry batteries, sports shoes and toys from China. The Directorate General of Anti Dumping and Allied Duties has initiated proceedings against the import of these products on 20.11.2000. Imposition of provisional anti-dumping duty has already been recommended in case of dry batteries and sports shoes.

Flow of Chinese Goods into the Country

27. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware of the large scale smuggling of inferior and sub-standard Chinese goods into the country's market through Nepal;
- (b) if so, what according to the assessment, if any, made by Government is the annual flow of Chinese sub-standard goods in the Indian market; and
- (c) what measures have been taken by Government to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Smuggling being a clandestine activity, it is not possible to make any assessment about the quantum of smuggled goods. However, the intelligence and reports available do indicate smuggling of goods of Chinese origin into India through Indo-Nepal border.

(c) All the field formations of the Customs Department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are on alert to detect and prevent smuggling of goods of Chinese origin. They have also been instructed to take stringent action against under invoicing of Chinese and other foreign goods. Further, steps have been taken to initiate the process of investigations to prevent dumping of Chinese goods into India.